AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

CLAIM 1 (Canceled):

CLAIM 2 (Previously Presented):
The program storage medium as recited in claim 19, wherein first and second nodes are electronic devices.

CLAIM 3 (Previously Presented):
The program storage medium as recited in claim 19, wherein first and second switching devices are electronic devices selected from the group consisting of repeaters, hubs, routers, bridges, and switches.

CLAIM 4 (Previously Presented):
The program storage medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the star segment further comprises a third node connected to a third port located on the first switching device.

CLAIMS 5-8 (Canceled):

CLAIM 9 (Previously Presented):
The computer operable method as recited in claim 23, providing first and second nodes are electronic devices.

CLAIM 10 (Previously Presented):
The computer operable method as recited in claim 23, providing first and second switching devices are electronic devices selected from the group consisting of repeaters, hubs, routers, bridges, and switches.

CLAIM 11 (Previously Presented):
The computer operable method as recited in claim 23, providing the star segment further comprises a third node connected to a third port located on the first switching device.

CLAIMS 12-15 (Canceled):

CLAIMS 16-18 (Canceled):

CLAIM 19 (Currently Amended):
A program storage medium readable by a computer, ~~tangibly~~

2	embodying a ~~software~~ computer program of instructions executable by the computer ~~to perform method steps~~ for automatically specifying a
4	topological map, wherein the topological map describes the connectivity of nodes on a computer network, wherein the network
6	comprises a first switching device having a first port, ~~said steps~~ the instructions comprising:
8	
	~~if connection of a first node to the first port is detected:~~ detecting
10	connection of a first node to the first port;
12	if connection of a second node to the first port ~~has been~~ was
	previously ~~detected,~~ detected:
14	
	specifying that the ~~topology~~ topological map of the network
16	comprises a bus segment attached to the first port, wherein the bus segment comprises the first port, the first node, the second
18	node, and that part of the network interconnecting the first port, the first node, and the second ~~node;~~ node.
20	
	otherwise, if the first node is a second port located on a second
22	switching ~~device,~~ device:
24	specifying that the ~~topology~~ topological map of the network comprises a serial segment attached to the first port, wherein
26	the serial segment comprises the first port, the second port, and that part of the network interconnecting the first port and the
28	second ~~port;~~ port, and
30	~~otherwise,~~ otherwise:
32	specifying that the ~~topology~~ topological map of the network comprises a star segment attached to the first port, wherein the
34	star segment comprises the first port, the first node, and that part of the network interconnecting the first port and the first
36	~~node.~~ node; and
38	using the topological map to control the flow of messages on the network.
40	

CLAIM 20 (Previously Presented):

	The program storage medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the
2	method step specifying that the topology of the network comprises the bus segment attached to the first port comprises:
4	
	if the bus segment is absent, specifying the bus segment;
6	

if the serial segment was previously specified:

8

transferring the second node and the first port from the
10   previously specified serial segment to the bus segment,

12   deleting the previously specified serial segment, and

14   adding the first node to the bus segment;

16   otherwise, if the star segment was previously specified:

18   transferring the second node from the previously specified star
            segment to the bus segment,
20
            deleting the previously specified star segment, and
22
            adding the first node to the bus segment; and
24
        otherwise, adding the first node to the bus segment.

CLAIM 21 (Previously Presented):
            The program storage medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the
2   method step specifying that the topology of the network comprises the
            serial segment attached to the first port comprises:
4
            specifying the serial segment;
6
            adding the first node to the serial segment; and
8
            adding the first port to the serial segment.

CLAIM 22 (Previously Presented):
            The program storage medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the
2   method step specifying that the topology of the network comprises the
            star segment attached to the first port comprises:
4
            specifying the star segment;
6
            adding the first node to the star segment; and
8
            adding the first port to the star segment.

CLAIM 23 (Currently Amended):
            A computer operable method for automatically ~~specifying~~ creating a
2   topological map, wherein the topological map describes the
            connectivity of nodes on a computer network, wherein the network
4   comprises a first switching device having a first port, ~~comprising the~~

~~steps of:~~ <u>comprising:</u>

6

~~if connection of a first node to the first port is detected:~~ <u>detecting</u>

8   <u>connection of a first node to the first port;</u>

10   if connection of a second node to the first port ~~has been~~ <u>was</u>
previously ~~detected,~~ <u>detected:</u>

12

   specifying that the ~~topology~~ <u>topological map</u> of the network

14   comprises a bus segment attached to the first port, wherein the
   bus segment comprises the first port, the first node, the second

16   node, and that part of the network interconnecting the first port,
   the first node, and the second ~~node;~~ <u>node,</u>

18

otherwise, if the first node is a second port located on a second

20   switching ~~device,~~ <u>device:</u>

22   specifying that the ~~topology~~ <u>topological map</u> of the network
   comprises a serial segment attached to the first port, wherein

24   the serial segment comprises the first port, the second port, and
   that part of the network interconnecting the first port and the

26   second ~~port;~~ <u>port,</u> and

28   ~~otherwise,~~ <u>otherwise:</u>

30   specifying that the ~~topology~~ <u>topological map</u> of the network
   comprises a star segment attached to the first port, wherein the

32   star segment comprises the first port, the first node, and that
   part of the network interconnecting the first port and the first

34   ~~node.~~ <u>node; and</u>

36   <u>using the topological map to control the flow of messages on the</u>
   <u>network.</u>

CLAIM 24 (Previously Presented):

   The computer operable method as recited in claim 23, the method step

2   specifying that the topology of the computer network comprises the
   bus segment attached to the first port comprising:

4

   if the bus segment is absent, specifying the bus segment;

6

   if the serial segment was previously specified:

8

   transferring the second node and the first port from the

10   previously specified serial segment to the bus segment,

12   deleting the previously specified serial segment, and

adding the first node to the bus segment;

14

otherwise, if the star segment was previously specified:

16

transferring the second node from the previously specified star

18   segment to the bus segment,

20   deleting the previously specified star segment, and

22   adding the first node to the bus segment; and

24   otherwise, adding the first node to the bus segment.

CLAIM 25 (Previously Presented):
The computer operable method as recited in claim 23, wherein the

2   method step specifying that the topology of the network comprises the
serial segment attached to the fort port comprises:

4

specifying the serial segment;

6

adding the first node to the serial segment; and

8

adding the first port to the serial segment.

CLAIM 26 (Previously Presented):
The computer operable method as recited in claim 23, wherein the

2   method step specifying that the topology of the network comprises the
star segment attached to the first port comprises:

4

specifying the star segment;

6

adding the first node to the star segment; and

8

adding the first port to the star segment.

CLAIM 27 (Cancelled):